

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Subject:  
Residents-Drug/Alcohol Treatment/  
Rehabilitation Programs

**Supersedes:** FS 201-7 (10/01/05)

**References:** 7 CFR 273.11(e)

**GENERAL RULE** -- Residents of publicly operated community mental health centers or private non-profit drug and alcohol (DAA) treatment and rehabilitation centers may voluntarily apply for the Food Stamp Program. (See glossary for definition of drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.) Applications must be made through an authorized representative who is employed by the DAA, rehabilitation, or mental health center and designated by the center for that purpose.

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Eligibility determinations for residents must be determined as one person households unless their children are living with them in the center. The children must be included in the household with the parent.

**TREATMENT  
CENTER/  
AUTHORIZED  
REPRESENTATIVE**

The resident is required to designate the DAA, rehabilitation, or mental health center as its authorized representative for the purpose of receiving and using the allotment on behalf of the household. As the authorized representative the DAA or rehabilitation center:

1. is responsible for reporting changes according to the household's reporting requirements;
2. is responsible for any misrepresentation or intentional program violation that it knowingly commits in the eligibility determination of the resident and assumes liability for all over issuances occurring while serving the household as an authorized representative;
3. assumes liability for loss or misuse of food stamp benefits held on behalf of residents;
4. provides the Office of Public Assistance (OPA) with a monthly list of currently participating residents signed by a group home official;
5. notifies the OPA when a resident leaves the facility and returns the Montana Access Card to the OPA by the end of each month if it was not given to the departing household; and,
6. provides the household its Montana Access Card and the following food stamp allotment when it leaves the center:

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- a. the **full monthly allotment** if benefits **have not been spent** on behalf of the household regardless of when during the month the household leaves the facility; or,
- b. **one-half** of its monthly allotment if **any portion of the benefits were spent** on behalf of the household, **and** the household leaves the facility **before the 16th** of the month; or,
- c. **any remaining benefits not spent** on behalf of the household at the time it leaves the facility **after the 16th** of the month; and,
- d. a 'Change Report' form, (HCS-260), if possible with instructions to report changes according to its reporting requirements.

**≥REQUIREMENTS**

In order for the residents of a DAA center to be certified to receive food stamps, the facility must provide evidence that it is:

- 1. Tax exempt and certified by the State agency responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts or alcoholics as:
  - a. Receiving funding under Part B of Title XIX; or
  - b. Eligible to receive funding under Part B of Title XIX even if no funds are being received; or
  - c. Operating to further the purposes of Part B of Title XIX, to provide treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and/or alcoholics; **or**,
- 2. Authorized as a retailer by FNS.

After determining that the facility qualifies under one of the above criteria, eligibility is determined using the same provisions that apply to all other households. Central Office conducts random on site visits of the treatment or rehabilitation center to assure the accuracy of the list of currently participating residents.

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